

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/077,221

Examiner

Stephen Yam

Applicant(s)

HORN ET AL.

Art Unit

2878

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment dated 11/26/05 and telephone conversations with Amy Bizon-Copp on 11/30/05.

2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,5,7-13,15 and 16.

3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:

1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.

5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.

(a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached

1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.

(b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material

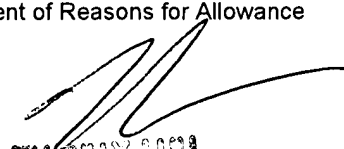
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____

7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

9. ☐ Other _____


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PATENT EXAMINER

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EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT / REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Amy Bizon-Copp on November 30, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

Replace Claim 15 with:

15. A device used in automatic vending machines to accept bank notes, with a test for acceptability, the device comprising:

an automatic vending machine configured to receive a bank note and to provide payment for products and services,

a transport/feed unit,

a digitization unit for at least partially digitizing the bank note to create digitized data,

means for comparing the digitized data with a stored data of bank notes belonging to a currency system scanned in ahead of time, the means for comparing performing a determination of value and rendering an automatic decision regarding acceptability,

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means for performing an inspection of adjustable parameters to render a preliminary decision between a direct rejection of the bank note and a final decision by a service employee based on a negative decision regarding acceptability,

an image display unit generating an image of the digitized data allowing visual inspection by the service employee rendering a final decision regarding acceptability if the preliminary decision is the final decision by a service employee,

means for marking areas of deviation in the image based on a result of a negative decision regarding acceptability,

an input unit, and

a unit for returning, advancing, collecting, and stacking the bank notes.

In Claim 16, line 2, replace "suspending" with --dispensing--.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The invention as claimed, specifically in combination with performing a determination of value and rendering an automatic decision regarding acceptability, performing an inspection of adjustable parameters to render a preliminary decision between a direct rejection of the bank note and a final decision by a service employee based on a negative decision regarding acceptability, generating an image of the digitized data allowing visual inspection by the service employee rendering a final decision regarding acceptability if the preliminary decision is the final decision

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by a service employee, and marking areas of deviation in the image based on a result of a negative decision regarding acceptability, is not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record.

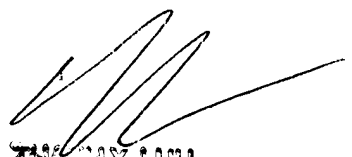
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Yam whose telephone number is (571)272-2449. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 8:30am-5pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Georgia Epps can be reached on (571)272-2328. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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THOMAS LIU
PATENT EXAMINER